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REPORT OF THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

At the last session of the Legislature, the Kansas Academy of Science was incorporated as a State organization by the following act :

"The Academy of Science shall be a co-ordinate department of the State Board of Agriculture, with their office in the agricultural room, where they shall place and keep for public inspection the geological, botanical and other specimens, the same to be under the direction and control of the officers of the said Academy of Science. An annual report of the transactions of said Academy of Science shall be made on or before the fifteenth day of November, of each year, to the State Board of Agriculture, for publication in the Annual Transactions of said Board. This section to be inoperative and void unless accepted by the said Academy of Science, in writing, signed by the president and attested by the secretary thereof." [Chapter 137, Sec. 2.]

The people of the State have thus indicated their appreciation of the aims and work of the Society, by incorporating it as a State institution.

The year has been fruitful to the cause of science in the State, in many respects.

Professor B. F. Mudge, of the State Agricultural College, has discovered, in Osage county, fossil footprints, of which a paper containing a full synopsis is appended. This is probably the most important discovery ever made in science in the State of Kansas, and will add a laurel wreath to the well-earned reputation of this veteran geologist. The discovery has already elicited a wide interest in scientific circles in the East, and several tons of the specimens have been ordered for Eastern cabinets.

Professor Frank H. Snow, of the State University, has continued to publish his carefully prepared meteorological reports, at Lawrence. The University has been provided with a full set of self-registering instruments for meteorological purposes, and there is a good prospect that it will be made a signal station.

Professor J. H. Carruth has continued his observations on the plants of Kansas. He writes in substance :

"I have become acquainted with twenty-one species that I gave last year on the authority of Profs. Snow and Hall. The year past I have studied more the hedge plants and grasses. I have found the garden gooseberry to be *Ribes hirtellum*, native in the country, but not wild in Kansas. My list of plants for the year, which I send, is to be increased by the observations of Prof. Snow, who has added about eighty species. Prof. John Wherrell collected all summer, and will add some ; also, Mr. E. A. Popenoe. Prof. B. F. Mudge has sent me some specimens, and Mrs. Craig, of Quenemo, has brought me

a tassel not in the books. I have found two which Prof. Wood thinks are new, viz.: an *Asclepias*, one foot high, with a single nodding umbel, and a *Rosa*, with lone stem quite prickly; leaflets, about nine, and flowers about ten, and fruit mostly conical."

Prof. Wood proposes to name these plants after their discoverer as a recognition of his long and unrewarded service in this department of science. Prof. Carruth has also discovered some undetermined plants which may prove to be new to science. Other members of the Academy have been laboring faithfully in their respective departments, the fruits of which appeared abundantly at the annual meeting.

The need of a more thorough scientific survey of the State is being felt in various ways by the people. The State, for example, possesses the most ample water powers along its numerous streams for manufacturing purposes. Could these be determined by a competent engineer, and utilized, it would result in an immense saving to the State. Science thus applied to the practical affairs of life yields rich returns to any people.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

The sixth annual meeting of the Society was held in the University building, at Lawrence, on September 8th and 9th, 1873, and was largely attended by the scientific men of the State. The papers read before the Society were of unusual merit, and the proceedings elicited a very general discussion in the public journals. There was such a pressure of papers and business before the Society, that the President suggested the necessity of resolving it into sections, as is customary in larger scientific associations, so that all the papers presented could be reap.

The following transactions of the Society are of public interest:

The subject of auxiliary societies was introduced, discussed and approved, and a committee composed of F. H. Snow, B. F. Mudge and F. E. Stimpson, was appointed on the same. The Topeka Scientific Institute was admitted as an auxiliary society.

The attention of the Society was called to the subject of standard weights and measures for Kansas, and the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to consider the question of standard weights and measures for the State, and to report some recommendations to the Legislature of the State during the next session — reporting as a committee of this Academy, F. W. Bardwell, F. E. Stimpson, and Robert J. Brown."